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Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-11 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02
SS-15 ICA-11 TRSE-00 OMB-01 IO-13 HA-05 EB-08
COME-00 ACDA-12 /126 W
----------029426 231508Z /72
P 231335Z JUN 78
FM AMCONSUL LUBUMBASHI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2501
INFO AMEMBASSY KINSHASA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY RABAT

C O N F I D E N T I A L LUBUMBASHI 0753

E.O. 11652 GDS
TAGS: MARR, CG, BE, MO
SUBJECT: DEPARTURE OF BELGIAN TROOPS FROM SHABA

1. SUMMARY. ALTHOUGH BELGIANS STATED SYMBOLIC DEPARTURE FROM SHABA ON JUNE 22,, BELGIAN TROOPS REMAIN IN MINING TOWNS NEAR LIKASI. BELGIANS HAVE ALSO DECIDED TO ROTATE NEW 300-MAN PARATROOP UNIT TO KAMINA FROM BELGIAN TO REPLACE THOSE SOLDIERS WHO WILL BE DEPARTING IN NEXT FEW DAYS. END SUMMARY.

2. BELGIANS STATED SYMBOLIC DEPARTURE FROM POSITIONS DEFENDING SOUTH SHABAN TOWNS ON JUNE 22. CEREMONY WAS HELD AT AIRPORT FOR CONTINGENT DEPARTING FROM KAMINA. PARTICIPANTS INCLUDED MILITARY GOVERNOR SINGA, MOROCCAN COLONEL LOUBARIS AND BELGIAN MILITARY AND CIVILIAN OFFICIALS. UNIT WHICH DEPARTED HAD BEEN PROVIDING DEFENSE AT MINING TOWN OF KIPUSHI NEAR ZAMBIAN BORDER.

3. MOROCCANS HAD ORIGINALLY BEEN RELUCTANT
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TO PUT FORCE IN PIPUSHI ARGUING THAT PROXIMITY TO BORDER MADE PAN AFRICAN TROOPS TOO VULNERABLE. LOCAL EXPATRIATE POPULATION WAS EXTREMELY NERVOUS OVER PROSPECT OF NO FOREIGN DEFENSE FORCE. GECAMINES PERSONNEL SEEM TO HAVE WEIGHED IN TO CONVINCE MOROCCANS TO COMPROMISE. MOROCCANS AGREED TO ESTABLISH POST

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2-3 KILOMETERS OUTSIDE OF KIPUSHI ON ROAD TO
LUBUMBASHI, THIS SEEMS TO HAVE PROVIDED CALMING
EFFECT AT LEAST TEMPORARILY.'$

4. ALTHOUGH BELGIAN PARATROOPERS HAVE NOW
SHOWN SYMBOLIC DEPARTURE, SMALL BELGIAN UNITS
REMAIN AT LIKASI AND NEARBY MINING TOWNS OF KAKANDA AND
KAMBOVE. BELGIAN CONSULATE OFFICIALS EXPECT THESE FORCES
TO DEPART WITHIN NEXT FEW DAYS AFTER THEY FEEL PAN AFRICAN
FORCE IS INSTALLED. DESPITE DEPARTURE FROM SOUTH SHABAN TOWNS,
BELGIAN CONSULATE OFFICIAL SAID THAT BELGIAN PARATROOPERS WILL
REMAIN IN KAMINA FOR NEXT SEVERAL MONTHS. UNIT PRESENTLY AT
KAMINA WILL BE ROTATED BACK TO BELGIAN IN THE
NEXT WEEK AND REPLACED BY ANOTHER 300 MAN UNIT. OSTENSIBLE
PURPOSE OF CONTINUED BELGIAN PRESENCE IS TO COORDINATE
RELIEF SUPPLIES FROM BELGIAN AND EEC. BELGIANS SAY UNIT WILL ALSO BE
IN A POSITION TO PROVIDE LOGISTAL SUPPORT TO PAN AFRICAN
FORCE IF RESUPPLY MISSIONS BEGIN. UNDERLYING AND
UNSTATED BUT PERHAPS MOST IMPORTANT ROLE IS TO SERVE AS QUICK
ACTION STRIKE FORCE IN CASE OF EMERGENCIES. BELGIANS
RECOGNIZE THAT SUCH ASSURANCES PROVIDED BY SMALL NUMBER OF
PARATROOPERS WILL BE MORE PSYCHOLOGICAL THAN REAL. TO
DEMONSTRATE CAPABILITY, HOWEVER, BELGIAN FORCES FROM KAMINA
EN ROUTE TO PARTICPATE IN DEPARTURE
CEREMONY ON JUNE 22, LANDED C-130 AT LUBUDI
FUNGARUME AND LIKASI WHERE BELGIANS
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COLONELS DISEMBARKED IN FLAG SHOWING EXERCISE.
BELGIAN SOURCE NOTED THAT PARATROOPERS WHO WOULD BE
ARRIVING WERE PART OF CONTINGENT THAT DROPPED ON
KOLWEZI IN MAY AND TOTATED BACK TO BELGIAN SEVERAL WEEKS AGO.

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